

Tammaqtailinahuariirit anngutighat atuqhugit Inuit qaujimajatuqangillu ilihimaniillu ilitquhiannin
Conserving wildlife through the application of Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit and scientific knowledge

ጥቅምት 20, 2013

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proposal that they wish to conduct the 2013 exploratory fishery approximately 20-30 miles outside the Nunavut Settlement Area near Broughton Island.

The NWMB considered the Nattivak Hunters and Trappers Organization's proposal at its June 2013 meeting in Rankin Inlet, and decided to hold a written hearing on the matter. Public notice regarding the written hearing was provided on June 28th 2013, with a July 28th 2013 deadline for submissions. Hearing documents, including the proposal for decision and NWMB relevant background documents, were made publicly available on the NWMB's website. The NWMB received response submissions from Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the Government of Nunavut – Department of Environment, Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board, and both the Aiviq (Cape Dorset) and Mayukalik (Kimmirut) Hunters and Trappers Organizations. Baffin Fisheries Coalition had also previously written to the Board on this issue. The Board was scheduled to hold a decision making session for the written hearing at its September 2013 quarterly meeting.

Recent Board Events

Due to the recent tragic loss of two of its board members, the NWMB membership now stands at six members. Five members, physically present together, constitute a quorum, and is a requirement for all Board meetings (*Nunavut Land Claims Agreement S.5.2.18*). Of the six NWMB members, two have affiliations with the Nunavut fishing industry that presents potential conflicts of interest in providing a recommendation on the Nattivak Hunters and Trappers Association proposal. Therefore, the Board decided at its September 2013 quarterly meeting that the two members in question should not participate in providing a recommendation, thus leaving the Board without a five member quorum to make a decision on this matter. The NWMB will face the same issue of lack of quorum with regards to decisions and recommendations affecting the rights and interests of members of the Nunavut fishing industry until such time as a new chairperson and new board members are appointed to the NWMB.

Moreover, the Nattivak Hunters and Trappers Organization's request was for 2013 only, and their Emerging Fisheries Licence Application indicates that the Hunters and Trappers Organization wishes to fish this allocation between August 1st and November 10th.

As a result, the NWMB is forwarding this time-sensitive request from the Nattivak Hunters and Trappers Organization to you for your consideration and decision without an NWMB recommendation.

Relevant Background Information and Stakeholder Positions

The NWMB has compiled numerous background documents and co-management partner and industry submissions as part of its written hearing process, and they are included as appendices to this letter for your consideration:

1. Appendix 1: Nattivak Hunters and Trappers Organization proposal for NWMB decision;
2. Appendix 2: NWMB letter to hearing parties – invitation for submissions to the written hearing;

3. Appendix 3: NWMB public notice of the written hearing;
4. Appendix 4: Hearing Purpose and Rules;
5. Appendix 5: Fisheries and Oceans Canada written response submission;
6. Appendix 6: Government of Nunavut – Department of Environment written response submission;
7. Appendix 7: Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board written response submission;
8. Appendix 8: Kimmirut Hunters and Trappers Organization written response submission;
9. Appendix 9: Cape Dorset Hunters and Trappers Organization written response submission;
10. Appendix 10: Baffin Fisheries Coalition letter to NWMB RE: Request by Nattivak Hunters and Trappers Association to transfer 100t inshore exploratory turbot allocation to be harvested outside of the NSA (offshore);
11. Appendix 11: Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board 100 tonne Qikiqtaaluk regional exploratory allocation letter
12. Appendix 12: NWMB summary document – Additional background and considerations
13. Appendix 13: *NWMB Allocation Policy for Commercial Marine Fisheries.*

In summary, Madam Minister, we thank you for your understanding during this difficult time for the Board, and we trust that the reasons for the Board's request are clear. We hope that the background information we have provided aids in your decision-making process. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the NWMB.

Sincerely,



Peter Kusugak
A/Chairperson of the
Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

Enclosure (13)



Fisheries and Oceans
Canada

Pêches et Océans
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OCT 04 2013

Mr. Samuel Nuqingaq
Chairman
Nattivak Hunters & Trappers Association
Box 10
Qikiqtarjuaq
Nunavut, X0A 0B0

Dear Mr. Nuqingaq,

Proposal to harvest the 100 tonne exploratory Greenland Halibut allocation outside the Nunavut Settlement Area (in Division 0A) for 2013.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada has carefully considered the information in the Nattivak Hunters & Trappers Association's proposal, information provided by the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board and other relevant considerations. I am pleased to notify you that your request to harvest the 100t Greenland Halibut allocation (in Division 0A) outside of the Nunavut Settlement Area is approved. This decision is for the 2013 fishing season only, and is made in accordance with provisions outlined in the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (S. 5.3.24).

Please contact Larry Dow or Charlotte Sharkey at 867-979-8000, in the Iqaluit office, to obtain your fishing licence. Also please be advised that access fees will be required to be paid to harvest the allocation outside the Nunavut Settlement Area.

Thank you for your interest in developing the Nunavut fishery. We look forward to receiving your report on the fishing activity carried out under this exploratory fishing proposal including information on catches, effort, locations, observations, etc.

Yours sincerely,

David Burden
A/Regional Director General
Central and Arctic Region
Fisheries and Oceans Canada

cc: Scott Gilbert, A/Regional Director, Fisheries Management
Larry Dow, Director, Northern Operations
Peter Kusugak, A/Chairman, Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
Art Willett, Director, Pacific, Central and Arctic, Ecosystems and Fisheries Management
James Qillaq, Chair, Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board